(a) the reasons behind the continuously occurring accidents of MIG aircrafts;

(b) the number of citizens killed and injured alongwith the loss of property in MIG accidents during the last year;

(c) whether Government are considering to impose ban on flying of MIG aircrafts over the residential areas; and

(d) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Human Error (Aircrew), Technical Defects and Bird Hits are the primary reasons of MIG crashes.

(b) Ten civilians were killed and fourteen injured during the financial year 2002-2003. The loss of property assessed in these accidents amounts to Rs. 92,15,197/- approximately. In case of two accidents the losses are yet to be assessed.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. However, flying over populated area is normally avoided. The location of fighter assets is based on tactical and strategic requirements designed to meet the security of the nation.

Shifting of population to safer areas

†4200. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the media report captioned, "Sarkar ke pass koi Doorgami Yojana hi nahin";

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) the details for the programme Government are having to shift the population living within the stipulated distance of present army bases, oil depots and power plants at the earliest alongwith army and setting up of ammunition bases thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the likely impact of the same in future?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (e) The Government is aware of the media report regarding Defence and other establishments surrounded by populated areas.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

2. The Defence bases and other establishments were originally located away from the urban areas. These were sited keeping in view strategic and tactical considerations. Over the years towns have expanded and some of the establishments are now surrounded by urban habitation.

3. These habitations around Defence establishment have come up in violation of the Indian Works of Defence Act 1903, which stipulates that restrictions should be imposed on the use of land in the vicinity of any Works of Defence and that such land be kept free from buildings and other obstructions for reasons of security of the establishment. The clearance zone is decided keeping in view the safety distances prescribed by various types of activities in these installations and as such may differ for various installations. Compensation is also admissible as per Works of Defence Act 1903 for any damage caused or to be caused and for value of rights restricted by such Gazette Notification.

4. Once the Gazette Notification is issued by the Government, District authorities of the State Governments are to ensure its implementation and take remedial measures in case of any violations. It is for State Governments to take steps for shifting of population settled within clearance zone settled in violation of law to safer places. Urban Planning and Development being a State subject, the preparation of Master Plans/Development Plans of urban centres is also taken up by respective State Department. Areas having defence bases, oil depots and power plants and shifting population from near these areas are to be considered in the exercise.

5. Various District authorities have evicted unauthorized inhabitants from time to time residing in the clearance/buffer zone.

Development of Fifth Generation Sukhoi Aircrafts by Russia with Indian and Chinese partnership

4201. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Russia has proposed to include China as a partner in developing Fifth Generation Sukhoi Fighter Planes alongwith India; and

(b) if so, India's view thereon?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.